

INDUSTRY: CONSTRUCTION
PROGRAMME: BUILD YOUR FUTURE
ACTIVITY: VIRTUAL RESOURCES



EMPLOYERS SUPPORT BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Following the success of numerous construction skills events in Forth Valley, most recently, 'Women in Construction' in March 2020, and in response to the increasing challenges presented by the pandemic, an employer-led project group consisting of members of Forth Valley Traditional Building Forum, supported by DYW Forth Valley, immediately began to scope what delivery might look like in its next phase.

The initial plan was to design a model that would provide a universal virtual offer to promote the huge variety of careers

in construction, complimented by business/education engagement in line with whichever tier restrictions were required at the point of delivery. This meant that even if the highest restrictions were in place young people would still be able to benefit from business input virtually.

It became apparent that although the project was being devised in Stirling, it would be easy to widen participation across Forth Valley and that a national audience would be a relevant goal, supported by the DYW Regional Group network.

Using the power of our collective networks the core group began to spread the word and consult with other businesses within the industry to explore if they could support the development of the programme. This approach was well received by industry and education. With the content being largely a virtual offer, businesses could very easily see how they could contribute to the resources being created.

As well as collating already existing material from our partners, new and exclusive content was developed. Key partners Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, designed an activity pack for educators themed around the built environment and innovation, to incorporate into lessons; and Scottish Futures Trust, using their network, created a film comprising of six projects, each of which focuses upon a different sector of the construction industry, explored by the individuals who worked in them, to show young people how a career in the industry actually contributes to building communities.

"Morrison Construction are keen to continue to engage virtually wherever we can and, as we hopefully emerge from lockdown restrictions this year, we look forward to moving back to an even more interactive engagement with education. We know that young people respond positively to our engagement and 'Build Your Future' is a great initiative for us to support that will continue to evolve as we recover from covid..."

CAITLIN QUINN, COMMUNITIES & SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGER, MORRISON CONSTRUCTION





Using virtual platforms, 5 conversations with multiple partners were recorded with 21 individuals from different businesses contributing. As well as insight into job roles and responsibilities, different training options and desirable skills development, these conversations touched on some challenging topics such as gender diversity, dealing with disappointment and homelessness. Ultimately they are relatable and engaging viewing benefiting young people, educators and parents/carers.



Over 30 individuals from business also supported Build Your Future by completing a profile template contributing to a central bank of job profiles that can be used in lessons by educators and those who support young people as well as enabling young people to browse when doing their own research into career pathways and opportunities.

Build Your Future was launched during Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2021 and International Women's day, with each day of the week covering a clear theme. This gives the programme an easily digestible and flexible structure providing schools with the option to engage over 5 days, insert one theme into a curricular subject lesson over a 5 week period or take a bespoke approach based on the needs of the school. It also meant that our partners were able to further support Build Your Future, maximising reach by engaging over social media.

Build Your Future was always intended to be part of a bigger education/business engagement programme involving Traditional Skills Demonstrations, a Surveying and Planning challenge, Heritage Trails and Drones Demonstrations, which unfortunately had to be put on hold due to tier 4 restrictions. The next phase is to continue to work within Forth Valley to raise awareness of the resources and work closely with our partners to plan the practical and interactive business/education engagement activities that will further enrich a young person's experience of the opportunities this exciting industry has to offer.

"In a time when it is so challenging to continue to work in the ways we have been used to, particularly for this industry, it is heartening that so many partners have rallied with their unified objective being to continue to support education in career education, and particularly to provide young people with knowledge and meaningful insight of the opportunities in their sector. This is a piece of work that won't stop here, the possibilities of how we evolve and enhance this core offer are endless."

RACHAEL DORMAN, PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, DYW FORTH VALLEY



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